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Houghton-le-Spring Urban District Council

**REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1957**



L. A. M. JOHNSTON,
B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

E. ROBINSON,
M.R.S.Inst., M.S.I.A.

HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Public Health Department,
Houghton-le-Spring.

Mr. Chairman and Members,

I have pleasure in submitting herewith my twenty-first Annual Report on the Vital Statistics, Sanitary Conditions and Health of the District, being for the year of 1957. The report of the Chief Public Health Inspector for that year is included therein.

Birth Rate.

This, at 18.94, is higher than in the preceding year and also is higher than for England and Wales, which was 16.1.

Death Rate.

At 11.76 per 1,000 population this is slightly higher than in 1956 but compares favourably with 11.5 for England and Wales.

Causes of Death.

Heart Disease and Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System (the latter mainly cerebral haemorrhage) accounted for half the total number of diseases in 1957 and coronary thrombosis, which is included, for almost one sixth. These diseases are still taking a great toll throughout the country each year.

Cancer - there were 55 deaths from this cause in 1957. This is still one of the problem diseases of the world. The Ministry of Health circular, published in mid 1957, regarding the possible connection between lung cancer and cigarette smoking was discussed at an area meeting of County Medical Officers of Health and it was felt that the only really useful propaganda would be amongst school children - this has been my personal opinion for some time and I still feel that this is the only propaganda which will prove effective in the future.

Infectious Diseases.

During 1957, 1,097 cases of infectious diseases (including all forms of tuberculosis) were notified, an increase of 931 compared with the number of cases for 1956.

Measles and Whooping Cough. These two diseases accounted for the tremendous increase in the number of cases of infectious diseases notified as in 1957 there were 885 cases of measles and 132 of whooping cough as against 35 of measles and 84 of whooping cough in 1956.

Tuberculosis. 23 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 3 non-pulmonary were notified during the year. Six of the pulmonary cases were under 20 years of age.

Scarlet Fever. There were 13 cases of Scarlet Fever notified during the year.

Diphtheria. There were no cases of diphtheria in 1957. The importance of immunisation against this disease must be continually emphasised. Family doctors are able to combine this with preventive treatment against whooping cough, but this combined protection could not be offered to children who were immunised at the Child Welfare Centres during 1957.

Anterior Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis). This is a disease which greatly worries parents. Two cases were notified in 1957, which, fortunately, were not fatal.

The vaccination programme to protect children against poliomyelitis was continued throughout the year as greater supplies of vaccine became available.

Housing.

The Council continues to make good progress with the implementation of the Five Year Slum Clearance Programme; 152 houses being erected during the year, 1 of these on Hindson Crescent South, 98 on Hindson Crescent North, 47 on the Burnside Estate and 8 at Morriss Terrace, Houghton and, at the 31st December, 1957, a further 188 were in course of erection.

The number of pre-war houses modernised during 1957 was 364 and the number modernised prior to 1957 was 214.

Welfare of the Aged

The local Committee continues to function and, apart from the kindly interest in the 9 Over-60 Clubs which are functioning in the district, and which are self-supporting, the main service of the Committee has been to provide a chiropody service for old people. Nearly 700 treatments were given during the year.

The Committee are extremely grateful to the Council for their donation which enables them, along with considerable effort on the Committee's part, to provide this service at a cost which any old person can afford.

The inter-Club Games Competition is held annually and although not supported by all the Clubs it has aroused a considerable amount of interest, especially amongst the male Club members.

An Advisory Conference, held under the auspices of the King George VI Social Service Training Scheme was held in the area during 1957, Houghton O.P.W. Committee acting as host to the Washington and Hetton districts.

This is my last Annual Report and I gladly take this opportunity of tendering my thanks to Councillors and my colleagues on the staff for their kind assistance during my years of happy service with you.

L.A.M. JOHNSTON.

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1957.

Members of the Health Committee, 1957.

Chairman : Councillor I.S. Oliver, 64 Wensleydale Av., Penshaw.

Members :

Houghton Ward

Councr.	J.A. Hall, 35 Windsor Cres.,	Houghton-le-Spring.		
"	G. Henderson, 21 Balmoral Cres.,	"	"	"
Alderman	H. Hodgson, 2 Stevenson St.,	"	"	"
Councr.	Mrs. E. McGovern, 4 Briar Av.,	"	"	"
"	S. Newton, 11 Burns Av., South,	"	"	"
"	W. Shearer, 9 Dickens St.,	"	"	"
"	W.E. Towers, 28 Sancroft Drive,	"	"	"
"	T.W. Urwin, 54 Queensway,	"	"	"

Penshaw Ward

Councr.	Mrs. V. Barker, 12 Harrow Cres.,	Shiney Row.
"	T.R. Hunt, 18 Hindson Cres.,	South, " "
"	J. Lowery, 17 Travers St.,	New Herrington.
"	J. Mawston, 10 Hindson Cres.,	North, Shiney Row.
"	W.J. McKinley, 10 Wensleydale Av.,	Penshaw.
"	D. Metcalfe, 2 Oxford Tce.,	Shiney Row.

Fence Houses

Councr.	Mrs. P. Alderson, 78 Avenue Vivian,	Fence Houses.
"	D. Cockburn, 7 Station Av.,	North, " "
"	A. Garland, North House,	" "
"	T. Patterson, 23 Station Av.,	North, " "

Members (Cont'd)

Herrington Ward

Councr. J. Coffey, 51 Railway Tce., New Herrington.
" C. Mitchison, 21 Railway Tce., New Herrington.
" J. McKinley, 6 Fenton Tce., New Herrington.

Newbottle Ward

Councr. B.A. Bircham, 10 Chapel Row, Philadelphia.
" L.R. Holmes, 8 Green Av., "
" W.E. Marshall, 14 Hazel Tce., Newbottle.
" H.T. Watson, 21 The Crescent, Philadelphia.

Co-opted Members

Mrs. J. McLean, 22 Avenue Vivian, Fence Houses.
Mrs. J. Mason, 66 Cathedral View, Newbottle.

Public Health Officers and Staff of the Authority

The Staff consists of :-

- MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH : Dr. L.A.M. Johnston,
B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (St. Andrew's)
Conjoint appointment with Hetton and Washington Urban
District Councils and Assistant Medical Officer for
Durham County Council.
- SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT :
E. Robinson - Wholetime - Holds Certificate of the Royal
Sanitary Institute and Certificate for the Inspection of
Meat and Other Foods. Also acts as Factory and Workshops
Inspector and Inspector under the Shops Act and Petroleum
Acts. Associate Member of Institute of Public Cleansing.
- DEPUTY SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR : N. Pounder - Wholetime -
Holds Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and
Certificate for the Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.
- ASSISTANT PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR : W. Snowball - Wholetime -
Holds Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and
Certificate for the Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.
- SURVEYOR AND ENGINEER : A. Veitch - Wholetime - Fellow of
Surveyor's Institute and a Member of the Royal
Sanitary Institute.
- CHIEF CLERK : A. Armstrong.
- SHORTHAND TYPIST : Miss J. Brown.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in acres - 5,026 acres.

Registrar General's Estimate of resident population -
mid year 1957 - 31,200.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1957) according to
Rate Books - 10,000.

Rateable Value - £209,375

Sum represented by a penny rate - £872.

Health Services administered by the County Council.

The County Council are the Local Health Authority under the National Health Service Act and are responsible for the following services :-

Ambulance.	Domestic Helps.
Home Nursing.	Health Visitors.
Vaccination - Smallpox and Poliomyelitis.	Child Welfare & Maternity Services
Immunisation against Diphtheria.	School Medical Services.
Welfare of the Aged.	Care of the Blind and certain other handicapped persons.

The County Council are also responsible for the administration of Part 111 of the National Insurance Act, 1948.

FOOD AND DRUGS INSPECTORS are also appointed by and work under the direction of the County Council.

The Ministry of Agriculture are responsible for the carrying out of the routine examination of the cow population throughout the County in order to maintain and raise the standard of the health of the said cows, this work being carried out by their own Veterinary Inspectors.

VITAL STATISTICS

Births and Birth Rate.

The nett number of live births (as corrected by the Registrar General for the outward and inward transfers) during 1957 was 577 compared with 537 for 1956.

Sex and legitimacy are shown thus :-

		<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
Live) Legitimate		558	285	273	} Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population 18.49
Births) Illegitimate		19	9	10	

The Registrar-General states the Birth Rate per 1,000 population in England and Wales (live births) was 16.1 for 1957.

Year	Total Live Births	Males	Females	Rate per 1,000 population	Excess births over Deaths
1948	635	342	293	21.63	313
1949	577	288	289	19.32	229
1950	612	335	227	20.11	266
1951	608	286	322	19.87	268
1952	579	300	279	12.21	249
1953	590	297	293	19.10	253
1954	544	276	268	17.57	180
1955	512	273	239	16.54	203
1956	537	274	263	17.31	231
1957	577	294	283	18.49	210

Still Births - During 1957 there were 15 still births in the district.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	
Still) Legitimate	13	6	7	} giving a rate of 18.94 per 1,000 (live & still births) births
Births) Illegitimate	2	2	-	

Deaths and Death Rate.

The Registrar-General reports that during 1957 367 persons normally residing in the Urban Area died, being 204 males and 163 females.

The death rate was, therefore, 11.76 per 1,000 population. This compares with 9.86 for 1956.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

(Heading 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's short list)
There were no deaths among women from puerperal sepsis or from other puerperal causes.

Comparison between Houghton-le-Spring and England and Wales.

	<u>Houghton-le-Spring.</u>	<u>England & Wales.</u>
Death Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births from puerperal sepsis.	0.00	0.39
Death Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births from other puerperal causes.	0.00	0.08

Death Rate of Infants under One Year.

8 children died during 1957 before attaining the age of one year, being 6 legitimate males and 2 legitimate females, equivalent to an Infantile Mortality Rate of 13.8 (per 1,000 live births).

During 1956 15 children died before attaining the age of one year.

Death rate of infants under one year of age according to the total number of live births and legitimacy for the years 1948 - 1957.

Year	All Infants per 1,000 live births	Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegiti- mate live births.
1948	50.39	50.00	71.43
1949	53.91	53.47	62.5
1950	39.21	38.14	111.11
1951	29.60	27.96	111.11
1952	41.45	41.45	00.00
1953	27.12	27.12	00.00
1954	33.08	31.26	125.00
1955	23.43	21.46	100.00
1956	27.93	27.93	00.00
1957	13.8	13.8	00.00

Of the 8 infants who died under one year of age, the cause of death was attributed to Prematurity in 1 case, Atelectasis in 1 case, Pneumonia in 3 cases and Other Causes 3 cases.

Nett Live Births - Legitimate	Illegitimate		
	Males	Females	
Corrected as per Registrar-General	285	273	9 10 = 577
Nett Deaths	6	2	- - = 8

DISTRIBUTION OF DEATHS AND AGE INCIDENCE IN THE VARIOUS WARDS

Ward		Under 1 yr.	1-5 yrs.	5-15 yrs.	15-25 yrs.	25-45 yrs.	45-65 yrs.	65-75 yrs.	75 yrs. & over	Total
Ho'ton	M.	2	1	-	2	2	19	23	28	77
	F.	1	-	-	-	2	8	19	11	41
Penshaw	M.	1	-	-	1	4	18	15	23	62
	F.	-	1	-	-	2	6	13	24	46
N'b'le	M.	2	-	-	2	1	5	7	10	27
	F.	1	-	-	-	2	5	14	7	29
F/Ho.	M.	1	-	-	-	1	6	9	7	24
	F.	-	1	-	-	1	7	14	9	32
Herr.	M.	-	-	-	-	1	5	2	6	14
	F.	-	-	-	-	2	5	5	3	15
Totals	M.	5	1	-	5	9	53	56	74	204
	F.	2	2	-	-	9	31	65	54	153

During 1957 there was one death from "Infantile" diarrhoea
(under 2 years of age)

Causes of Death in Houghton-le-Spring Urban District during 1957

<u>Cause of Death</u>					<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory...	...	...	...	-	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	-	1
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	-	-
6.	Meningococcal Infections	...	...	...	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	-	-
8.	Measles	...	...	...	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasite diseases...	...	...	...	1	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	...	...	...	6	5
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	7	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus..	...	...	...	-	4
13.	Malignant neoplasm, breast..	...	...	...	-	5
14.	Other Malignant and lymphatic neoplasm..	...	...	...	14	13
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	-	2
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	-	-
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous systems	...	...	...	39	35
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	47	18
19.	Hypertension with heart disease...	...	...	...	7	2
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	16	19
21.	Other circulatory disease...	...	...	...	4	13
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	3	4
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	12	10
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	11	5
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	-	-
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	3	-
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	1	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	-	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	3	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion...	...	...	...	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	1	2
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases..	...	...	...	18	21
33.	Motor Vehicle accidents	...	...	...	1	-
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	8	1
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	1	-
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	1	-
All Causes					204	163

Certain Specified Causes of Death :

(a) TUBERCULOSIS :

During 1957 there no deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis. There was one death from non-pulmonary tuberculosis, equivalent to a rate of 0.04 per 1,000 population.

(b) HEART DISEASE :

Heart disease was, as in former years, the chief cause of death throughout the area, 183 persons - being 109 males and 74 females - were certified to have died from heart disease. This is equivalent to 49.86% of the total deaths and a mortality rate of 5.87 per 1,000 population.

Comparative Table :-

Year	Total Deaths All Causes	Deaths due to Heart Disease			Death rate per 1,000 population		Percentage Total Deaths due to Heart Disease
		Total	M.	F.	All Causes	Heart Disease	
1948	323	110	60	50	11.00	3.61	34.05
1949	348	106	56	50	11.70	3.56	30.40
1950	346	107	54	53	11.4	3.52	30.92
1951	340	97	48	49	11.11	3.17	28.53
1952	348	104	54	50	11.21	3.36	29.88
1953	337	103	44	59	10.90	3.33	30.56
1954	364	98	49	49	11.76	3.16	26.49
1955	309	90	56	34	9.98	2.96	29.12
1956	306	130	67	63	9.86	4.19	42.48
1957	367	183	109	74	11.76	5.87	49.86

(c) CANCER :

55 deaths - being 27 males and 28 females - were due to cancer. This is equivalent to a mortality rate of 1.76 per 1,000 population or 15% of the total deaths. This compares with a death rate for England and Wales of 2.04.

Comparative table of deaths due to cancer for the years 1948-1957.

	<u>Number of Deaths</u>			<u>Mortality Rate per 1,000 population.</u>
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	
1948	20	21	41	1.39
1949	27	23	50	1.68
1950	28	18	46	1.51
1951	44	15	59	1.89
1952	30	24	54	1.74
1953	31	28	59	1.91
1954	34	24	58	1.87
1955	26	22	48	1.55
1956	28	30	58	1.87
1957	27	28	55	1.76

The following shows the sites of lesion, sex and age distribution of those who have died during 1957 from cancer, as compiled from local records

<u>Site</u>	<u>Males - Ages</u>	<u>Female - Ages</u>
Lungs	45, 47, 56, 61, 63, 70, 78.	55
Uterus		30, 51, 55, 67.
Intestine	60, 75, 84, 39, 64, 72, 81.	73, 82, 72, 72.
Stomach	60, 63, 70, 74, 74, 83.	60, 72, 79, 81, 82.
Breast		58, 65, 68, 69, 81.
Oesophagus	63.	73, 77.
Prostate Gland	67, 69.	
Throat	20.	
Tongue	81.	
Liver	48.	
Thyroid	58.	
Ovary		39, 54, 70.
Ventricular		67, 69.
Bladder		65.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

During 1957 some 1,097 cases of infectious disease (including all forms of Tuberculosis) were notified, an increase of 596 compared with the number of cases during 1956.

Scarlet Fever : 13 cases were notified as against 10 in 1956 and of these 1 was admitted to hospital.

The case incidence was 0.45 per 1,000 population.

Diphtheria : There were no cases of diphtheria in the district during 1957, as in 1956, and, therefore, no deaths from this cause. Anti-toxin is available during office hours at the Public Health Department, Council Offices, Broadway, Houghton. The incidence of diphtheria in the district was 0.00 per 1,000 population.

Influenza : 7 deaths were ascribed to Influenza during 1957 as against 1 in 1956 and 4 in 1955.

There were 22 deaths as being ascribed to pneumonia (some influenza pneumonia) as against 10 in 1956 while the number of cases of pneumonia notified were 15 as against 8 in 1956 and 8 in 1955.

Measles, Whooping Cough and Erysipelas : In 1957 there were 883 cases of measles and 132 cases of whooping cough as against 35 measles and 84 cases of whooping cough in 1956.

There were no deaths from measles or whooping cough during the year.

No cases of erysipelas were notified during 1957.

Infantile Paralysis : During 1957 2 cases of infantile paralysis were notified in the area, being a case incidence of 0.06 per 1,000 population.

School Notification of Disease : No fresh cases of any notifiable disease were notified from the schools.

Diphtheria Immunisation and Vaccination

The following table shows the number of children immunised during the four quarters of 1957, also the number of re-inforcing injections for which records were received.

	<u>Under 5</u>	<u>5-14</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Re-inforcement</u>
1st Quarter	68	1	69	21
2nd "	41	-	41	19
3rd "	44	4	48	27
4th "	25	1	26	7
	178	6	184	74

The following table shows the number of persons vaccinated and re-vaccinated, for which records were received, during the four quarters of 1957.

1957	VACCINATED					ReVACCINATED				
	Under 1 yr.	1-4	5-14	15 yrs & over	Total	Under 1 yr.	1-4	5-14	15 yrs & over	Total
1st Qr.	19	4	2	3	28	-	-	1	4	5
2nd "	15	1	2	8	26	-	1	1	5	7
3rd "	32	2	2	5	41	-	-	-	2	2
4th "	25	1	-	1	27	-	-	-	2	2
	91	8	6	17	122	-	1	2	13	16

Tuberculosis

There has been no action taken during 1957 under the Public Health Act (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade), or Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis).

The following table shows the notifications of Tuberculosis, pulmonary and non-pulmonary, according to sex, for the period 1948-57.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Pulmonary</u>			<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>
1948	12	21	33	5	2	7
1949	14	21	35	2	3	5
1950	11	18	29	3	3	6
1951	18	29	47	3	5	8
1952	9	11	20	2	2	4
1953	6	10	16	-	-	-
1954	11	15	26	1	1	2
1955	10	10	20	1	-	1
1956	12	11	23	3	1	4
1957	11	12	23	1	2	3

The following table shows the various age-period for males and females, at which new cases were notified and when death occurred.

Age Period	New Cases		Deaths	
	Pulmonary	Non Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non Pulmonary
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-
1 year	3	-	-	-
5 years	-	1	-	-
15 years	3	-	-	-
25 years	2	1	-	-
35 years	6	-	-	-
45 years	2	1	-	1
55 years	6	-	-	-
65 and upwards	1	-	-	-
	23	3	-	1

Mass Radiography.

During the period, 3rd September to 13th September, 1957, a mass radiography survey was carried out in the urban area, in which a total of 1,154 persons, being 715 males and 439 females were X-rayed. Of this figure 155 were recalled for a large film X-ray and only 9 of this number failed to attend.

From statistics rendered it was noted that 21 persons, 18 males and 3 females, were suffering from non-tuberculosis conditions and 9 persons, being 4 males and 5 females, suspected pulmonary tuberculosis.

Cases of Infectious Diseases during 1957 - Showing Age, Incidence and Dis Admission to Hospital and Case Rates

Notifiable Diseases	Number of Cases Notified												Total No in e		
	At Ages - Years												Ho'ton	Penshaw	Neubottle
	Under yr.	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	4-5 yrs.	5-10 yrs.	10-15 yrs.	15-20 yrs.	20-35 yrs.	35-45 yrs.	45-65 yrs.	65 & over	Total		
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	1	3	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	1	8
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	2	1	3	-	-	1	-	1	2	1	4	-	15	2	9
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pulmonary) Male	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	2	1	5	-	11	4	5
Tuberculosis) Female	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	2	4	1	1	1	12	3	5
Non Pulmonary) Male	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Tuberculosis) Female	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Small Pox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	7	8	3	2	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	24	1	23
Measles	29	91	102	137	145	370	7	2	-	-	-	-	883	217	378
Whooping Cough	14	12	30	29	22	24	1	-	-	-	-	-	132	40	58
Para Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Polionyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	2	1	-
Polio Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningicoccal Infection	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	-
	53	113	138	171	176	407	11	6	11	3	13	1	1097	271	487

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

Water Supply

The water supply of the Urban area was taken over by the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company at the beginning of April, 1957.

The water supplied to the area has been satisfactory in quality and quantity.

Bacteriological examinations were made monthly of the treated water and the results for the nine months April-December were :-
coliform organisms absent in 1, 10 and 100 ml in all samples; organisms visibles after incubation at 57°C for 48 hrs. = 2.1. (average)

The water has no detectable plumbo-solvent action; the supply is chlorinated and no contamination has taken place.

There are approximately 9,000 dwellings connected to the Company's mains, serving some 32,000 persons, and there are no standpipes in the area.

Housing

The number of houses in course of erection on the 31st December, 1957, was as follows :-

Council Houses...	...	...	188
Private Houses...	...	...	14

Closet Accommodation

The number of each type of convenience at the end of 1957 was as follows :

Water Closets...	...	...	10,130
Ash Closets	...	...	20
Privy middens...	...	...	2

Refuse Collection and Disposal

New properties are being built at an average of 200 per year and the number of premises from which refuse was collected was 10,152. The Urban Area is divided into 8 districts; the four smaller districts being served by a team consisting of a driver and two fillers with a Karrier Bantam vehicle and the four larger areas have larger wagons (C.K.3), a driver and two fillers who have extra help for part of the week.

344 working days were lost through sickness and other causes, due in some cases to the age of the men (91% all over 50 years), and to other physical conditions. Despite this loss of time through sickness, the staff has been able to maintain regular collections of house and trade refuse and salvage.

Twice weekly collections have been made for 70% of premises throughout the district and the other 30% have a once-weekly collection.

The foreman, along with other duties, is responsible for the collection of salvage from shops and factories. The Chamber of Trade co-operate with the Council in the collection of salvage from their members' premises. All saleable paper and hardboard is properly sorted and kept free from floor sweepings but there are still some shop employees who unthinkingly mix floor sweepings, broken glass and crockery with the waste paper collections and this often results in cut fingers for the paper baling operative.

Increased demand on the refuse collection service, coupled with rising costs of materials, maintenance and wages make it difficult to keep the cost of this essential service within reasonable limits.

The present estimated cost is 43/5 per house, per annum. In 1950 the estimated cost was 27/6d per house, and pre-war it was 15/- per house.

Present day house refuse is more bulk than solid refuse and it would relieve labour costs if residents could burn the combustible refuse.

The lay-out of modern housing estates makes the task of the refuse collector much heavier than in the pre-war estates. Often the loader has to travel more than 100 yards for the collection of the bin. This, naturally, increases the cost of refuse collection.

Sites for tipping (controlled or otherwise) are becoming increasingly difficult to obtain in this area and the shortage of tipping space is proving a severe handicap.

All potential sites are now comparatively close to building schemes and development. Land reclamation is very desirable and increases otherwise-lost acreage for agriculture.

Sedgeleth tip has again been extended for the Houghton and Fence Houses districts but will soon be filled in, unless further extensions become available.

The main tip at Coxgreen is being filled in at an alarming rate and at the moment no other suitable tipping space is available.

Ashbins

71 bins have been purchased from the Council during the year. These are a good quality galvanised ashbin.

Salvage of Waste Materials

The salvage of waste paper and cardboard was well maintained and disposed of under contract to Messrs. J. Ainsworth & Co. (Bolton) Ltd; 79 tons of baled paper and cardboard being sent to these mills and the sum realised £574 as against £683 in 1956, a decrease, due to falling prices, of £109. 20 tons of scrap tins were collected from scavenging tips, realising £63, an increase of £22 over the prior year.

Housing Repairs

The high cost of labour and materials still retard the work of repairs and local contractors are loth to estimate for works specified under the Housing Acts. In other cases the main cause underlying the disrepair of much privately owned property has been the result of the small income derived from the rents and many small owners found themselves financially unable to maintain their property properly.

Camping Sites

This area is in the centre of the coal mining industry and there are no sites used for camping or licensed caravan sites.

Swimming Baths and Pools

There are no publicly or privately owned swimming baths or pools in the district.

Schools

The sanitary condition of the schools was found to be generally satisfactory. Two of the older types need to be replanned when circumstances permit.

Cinemas, Public Houses, and Halls

There are six cinemas in the district :
Houghton 3; Herrington Burn 1; Fence Houses 1; New Penshaw 1.
(The latter has not been operated as such for part of the year.)
These and other places of public entertainment were inspected during the year with respect to sanitary arrangements and were generally found to be satisfactory.
All licensed premises are visited throughout the area and are generally found to be in a clean and hygienic condition.

Eradication of the Bed Bug

The work is supervised by the Public Health Inspectors in co-operation with either tenants or owner. Periodical inspections are made to ensure that the tenants carry out the Inspector's instructions as much depends on the efforts of the tenants themselves.

	Infested	Disinfested
Number of Council Houses	7	7
" " other houses	-	-

Prevention of Damage by Pests - Pests Act, 1949.

92 cases of rat, mouse and other infestations were reported and dealt with during the year.

No matter how minor the infestation may be, investigations are carried out by the Inspectors; this in some cases may appear to be a waste of time but the results are often more than satisfactory to the person concerned.

The part-time rodent operative has continued to relieve your Inspectors of some of the actual disinfestation of the premises.

Scavenging disposal tips in the area are regularly treated.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S GENERAL SUMMARY FOR YEAR 1957

	No. of Inspection- tions	No. of INFORMAL Notices Served	No. of FORMAL Notices Served	Defects remedied after Notice
Housing :				
Public Health & Housing Acts	1524	78	nil	78
Overcrowding	67	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences :				
Insufficient	2	2	-	2
Defective	2	2	-	2
Drainage	63	63	-	63
Water Supply	22	20	-	20
Food Premises	1322	71	-	71
Shops Act	63	-	-	-
Dairies	50	3	-	3
Slaughter Houses :				
Public	-	-	-	-
Private	2033	52	-	52
Tents, Vans, etc.	69	3	-	3
Offensive Trades	-	-	-	-
Factories & Workplaces	39	-	-	-
Keeping of Animals	50	21	-	21
Insanitary Ashpits and Receptacles	26	26	-	26
Offensive accumulations	13	13	-	13
Smoke Nuisances	20	11	-	8
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	248	9	-	9
Licensed Premises	41	15	-	15
Schools	14	-	-	-
	5704	389	-	386

Ash-pit privies converted into water-closets -

Ash-closets converted into water-closets -

Total number of water-closets in District 10130

" " " ash-closets " " 20

" " " ash-pit privies " " 2

ii) <u>Water, Food and Drugs</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Samples of Water taken for Analysis	17	
Samples of Water condemned as unfit for use	-	
Seizures of Unwholesome Food	2 tons	4567 lb meat.
	19 cwts	2041 lb other foods.
Convictions for exposing or selling unwholesome food.	-	
Samples of Food and Drugs taken for Analysis.	61	
Samples found Adulterated	6	

iii) Precautions against Infectious Disease

Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed.	18
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease.	18
Schools disinfected after Infectious Disease	-
Prosecutions for exposure of infected persons or things	-
Convictions for exposure of infected persons or things	-

iv) General

Number of new houses erected during year	230	Council 152 Private 78
Number of new houses occupied during year	230	

HOUSING CONDITIONS

Housing Statistics for the Year 1957.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).....	759
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose.....	1,052
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Acts.....	263
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose.....	296
(3)	No. of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.....	122
(4)	No. of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation..	50

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal Notices.

No. of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers.....	70
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :

A. Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1956 :

(1)	No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.....	1
(2)	No. of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a)	By owners.....	1
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners.....	-

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

- | | | |
|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| (1) | No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied..... | - |
| (2) | No. of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices..... | - |
| (a) | By owners..... | - |
| (b) | By Local Authority in default of owners..... | - |

C. Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936, and section 10 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953

- | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| (1) | No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made..... | 122 |
| (2) | No. of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders..... | 56 |

D. Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

- | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| (1) | No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made..... | 7 |
| (2) | No of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit..... | - |
| | By Owners..... | - |

Housing Improvements Act, 1949

- | | <u>No. of separate
houses</u> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| (a) Applications submitted to Local Authority | 17 |
| (b) Applications rejected by Local Authority | - |
| (c) Total No. of applications approved since the inception of scheme | 147 |

Housing :

SITE	No. of Houses erected prior '57.	No. of Houses erected during 1957.	No. of Houses in course of erection at 31.12.57.	TOTAL
Newtown	82	-	-	82
North Rectory	60	-	-	60
Villa No. 1	-	-	-	-
and 2	246	-	10	256
Chilton Moor	168	-	-	168
Colliery Row	64	-	-	64
Hetton Road	308	6	-	314
Hall Lane	65	-	-	65
Racecourse	620	-	-	620
Grange Estate	458	-	-	458
Sedgeleth	20	-	-	20
Hillside	72	-	-	72
Homelands	184	-	-	184
St. Aidans	138	-	-	138
Park Estate	268	-	-	268
Station Road	56	-	-	56
Chandler Row	9	-	-	9
Chester Road	276	-	-	276
Penshaw Hill	96	-	-	96
New Penshaw	40	-	-	40
Barnwell	612	-	-	612
Success	46	-	-	46
Cellar Hill	248	-	-	248
Hindson Cres. S.	109	1	-	110
Hindson Cres. N.	65	98	87	250
Burnside	-	47	91	138
	4,310	152	188	4,650

152 houses were completed by direct labour, 78 were built by private enterprise. The types and location of the houses are shown on the above table.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Milk Supplies :

During the year 30 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination and generally were found satisfactory.

Slaughterhouses :

Slaughtering accommodation in the area is quite inadequate and a good standard of hygiene in these premises is very difficult to maintain.

Slaughtering is carried out in eight private slaughterhouses in the Urban District. Lack of slaughtering facilities makes it necessary in some cases for slaughtering to take place practically six days a week and, in some cases, seven days, but your Inspectors have maintained 100% inspection of animals slaughtered for food.

Meat and Food inspection is a function of the Health Department that should not be neglected and your Inspectors responsible for this important duty have to carry out this work outside normal office hours, often in the late evenings, Sundays and even Bank Holidays. Sunday and Bank Holiday work is objectionable but is unavoidable if the delay of the distribution of the meat is to be prevented.

A marked improvement in the quality of the animals slaughtered is one of the outstanding features of the return to private slaughtering. A definite decline in the amount of tuberculosis found in carcasses is one pleasing feature of this improved quality.

The following animals were slaughtered during the year :

Cattle 1,767; Cows 208; Sheep and Lambs 4,568; Pigs 1,578;

making a total of 8,153, all of which were inspected.

FOOD and DRUGS

There were 214 food premises in the area, being :-

General Dealers.....	79
Fish Shops.....	29
Grocery & Provisions.....	32
Butchers.....	26
Confectioners.....	14
Chemists.....	10
Bakchouses.....	11
Greengrocers.....	9
Ice Cream Shops.....	4

There are three dairies, A.E. Smith, F. Tindale and B. English, and the number of premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream is 81, being :-

General Dealers.....	57
Grocery and Provisions.....	7
Ice Cream Shops.....	4
Confectioners.....	3
Cinemas.....	5
Baker & Confectioner.....	1
Greengrocers.....	2
Ice Cream Manufacturer.....	1
Colliery Canteen.....	1

Routine inspection and supervision of all food shops and food preparing premises have been carried out. The standard of hygiene in general is good but there is room for improvement in some of the premises and these are receiving attention. Occupiers are only too willing to co-operate with the Department to achieve the standard we desire.

As previously stated the housewife could do much to enforce good hygienic shop premises.

The results of inspections are contained in the following tables:

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle ex. Cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1767	208	32	4568	1578
Number inspected	1767	208	32	4568	1578
All diseases except T.B.					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	1	1	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	172	35	-	62	28
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	9.73	16.82	3.12	1.37	1.77
T.B. only					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	-	-	-	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	58	39	-	-	13
Percentage of the number inspected affected with T.B.	3.33	18.75	-	-	.19

WEIGHT CONDEMNED (in LBS)

	Other Diseases			T.B.		
	Carcases	Organs	Parts	Carcases	Organs	Parts
Cattle ex. Cows	-	1886	125	590	180	50
Cows	-	315	15	-	498	191
Calves	25	6	-	-	-	-
Sheep	65	295	110	-	-	-
Pigs	-	60	15	110	-	31
	90	2562	265	700	678	272

Total weight condemned... 2 tons 0 cwts 6 sts. 3 lb.

Unsound Food

Condemned meat and offal is disposed of for the manufacture of fats, fertilisers and animal feeding stuff, or if it is unsuitable for such purpose it is destroyed.

Meat and other foods from retail premises are surrendered to the Health Department and is crushed or destroyed and disposed of on the Council's tip.

5 x 6 lb and 39 x $\frac{5}{4}$ lb tins Corned Beef, 334 tins Tomatoes, 452 tins Fruit, 226 tins Meat, 41 tins Milk, 169 tins Vegetables, 47 tins Fish, 47 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb Sliced Cooked Ham, 39 lb Sliced Tongue, 7 lb sliced Bacon, 7 tins Sausage, 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb Pork Roast, 5 bottles Fruit Juices, 69 lb Sausage, 2 tins chicken, 2 tins Gammon, 37 tins Ham, 11 tins Dog Food, 16 tins Tongue, 3 tins Cream Rice, 2 tins Baked Beans, 3 tins Tomato Sauce, 1 lb Coconut, 1 packet Rice Crispies, 24 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb Pork Sausage, 50 Fish Cakes, 28 tins Soup, 3 jars Pickles, 1 jar Syrup, 1 tin Cream, 2 tins Salmon, 106 tins Pork, 5 tins Vegetable Salad, 2 tins Jam, 2 jars Jam.

Bakehouses

Large bakeries where loaves are produced in thousands have practically cut out the small local baker but there are still a small number of small high class bakers in the district who produce bread and flour confectionery under good conditions. These premises are regularly inspected and found satisfactory.

Ice Cream

During the year 21 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination and were satisfactory. Much of the ice cream consumed is imported (pre-packed) into the district and sold by small retail shops. It is the practice to insist on an electric refrigerator for storage in these cases and to ensure that the premises and personnel are clean.

Fried Fish Shops

The standard of cleanliness is well maintained and many establishments are equipped with all-electric ranges and have been installed with alternative coal heating. Other ranges in the district are heated by coal and gas. In most cases the assistants serving in these establishments are provided with white overalls and caps; a condition which we have sought to have included in the regulations.

Shops

The standard of hygiene and cleanliness throughout the area is satisfactory.

Canteens

Colliery, Factory and School canteens in which food is prepared were visited during the year, and a good standard of cleanliness is maintained.

F A C T O R I E S

The following are the principal places within your district :

1. Philadelphia Engine Works and Repairing Shops.
2. Philadelphia Joinery Works.
3. N.E.Co. Electrical Power Sub-Station.
4. Sunderland and District Omnibus Co.
5. Co-operative Stores and Workshops.
6. Gas Works.
7. Joinery Works.
8. Boring Tool Works.
9. Printing Works.
10. Building Merchants.
11. Candle Making.
12. Bakeries.
13. Sugar Confectioners.
14. Clothing Factories.
15. Iron Foundry.
16. Motor Repair Shops.
17. Boot Repair Shops.
18. Cement Blocks.
19. Building Works.
20. Packing Cases.
21. Travelling Cases.
22. Electrical Accessories.
23. Woodwork Machinery.
24. Pickles.
25. Light Engineering Works.
26. Furriers.

During the year these have been inspected and any nuisances or defects found were remedied without the necessity for formal action.

1. Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to Health
(including Inspections made by P.H. Inspectors)

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		Occupiers Prosecuted.
		Inspections	Written Notices	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	91	111	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	-	-	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	4	4	-	-
Total	95	115	-	-

2. Defects found

	Number of cases in which defects were found			No. of Cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S1)	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S2)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S3)	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S4)	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S7)				
Insufficient	1	1	-	-
Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-
Not separate for sexes	1	1	-	-
Other offences (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-
Total	3	3	-	-

